**Minutes: Rhodes University SRC General Meeting held on the 10th of August 2021**

**Time Started:** 18:00

**Venue:** Zoom

**2021.08.01. Present**

- Ms. L. Nkambule - Ms. L. Leboho

- Ms. H. Mpiti - Ms. M. Matariro

- Ms. T. Phiri - Ms. M. Mathabatha

- Ms. G. Mngeni - Mr. N. Mkhulisa

- Ms. Z. Gcumisa - Ms. V. Moyo

- Mr. L. Cezula - Ms. C. Mude

- Ms. T. Hlako - Ms. N. Mwenye

- Mr. M. Khopeli - Mr. M. Pfupa

**2021.08.02. Leave of Absence**

- There was no leave of absence.

**2021.08.03. Confirmation of Previous Minutes (2 August 2021)**

* Madam President stated that it is adoption of minutes and not a motion and that for RUConnected, the ‘c’ should be a capital letter.
* Sports and Societies councillor said he was referred to as Madam Sports and Societies councillor instead of Mister.
* Community Engagement councillor moved to adopt the minutes and Residence councillor seconded.

**2021.08.04. Conflict Declaration**

No conflict declaration.

**2021.08.05. Matters Arising**

**5.1. Certify Me**

**2021.08.06. Matters Arising from the SRC Executive**

**2021.08.07. Upcoming Events**

**7.1. Women's Month**

**7.2. Student Parliament**

**2021.08.08. Report Backs**

**8.1. Feenix Update**

**8.2. CHERTL Translanguaging event**

**8.3.** **Feedback from Meeting with the Union**

**8.4. Women’s Day Webinar**

 **8.5. Feedback from Student Body meeting**

**2021.08.09. Other Matters Arising**

**9.1. Women’s Day Pad drive**

**9.2. Leadership Week**

**9.3. Feedback from Executive Meeting**

**2021.08.10. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Time Adjourned: 19:38

**Agenda 5.1. Certify Me**

Madam Academics stated the following:

* There were no dates proposed however she suggested that the meeting be held next Sunday as it will be a virtual meeting.
* Madam Secretary General said that she understood the importance of Certify Me but next Sunday would not be convenient as Academic reps still have some time to compete and it would be better to have Certify Me in September. She suggested that people focus their energy on the elections, encouraging people to run and bringing awareness to the elections.
* Madam Environmental stated that Certify Me is a good idea and asked if it will be a large Zoom meeting or if it will be separated like it was done with the Academic talks.
* Residence councillor asked what criteria Madam Academics will use to award students and if she is aiming to substitute the already available residence system or keep the one that is there and use it alongside the residence system.
* Madam Academics responded saying the awards are for June and July examinations so that was the reason to have the awards at the beginning of the term. If council agrees to have the awards in September, then she will not have a problem with that.
* Madam Academics stated that the idea was to have each academic rep having their own Zoom meetings according to each residence as the rep awards the prizes to each award-winning student in the top 10. She will facilitate giving the students certificates with the SRC logo, that will be designed with the help of Madam Media, as a recognition of academic performance and excellence.
* Madam Academics said that she noticed that other residences do not have the system of awarding prizes in place and she wanted all residence to have the same system.
* Madam President said that she is right that not all residences practice this culture and she feels it is not an immense project but it is quite good. She mentioned difficulty putting a date to the event as it would be difficult to carry out seeing that other academic reps are not yet back on campus. However, Madam President felt that this was at the discretion of the Academic reps with Madam Academics monitoring it all.

**Agenda 7.1. Women's Month**

Community Engagement councillor stated the following:

* The task team is still waiting for the feedback and permission from the Healthcare centre.
* If there is no response, the task team could make use of the vaccine registration, which is ongoing, as they look at other avenues.
* Madam President asked if the team had tried going to the Healthcare centre as a walk in, to request.
* Madam Activism stated that she had sent them an email but she will avail herself to go to the Healthcare centre tomorrow if they do not respond.

**Agenda 7.2. Student Parliament**

* Community Engagement councillor stated that since the Student Parliament sitting will be happening soon, it would be great to have clarity on how the process works and requested the Vice President to shed some light on the matter.

Madam President had the following to say:

* Student Parliament is just like a national parliamentary structure.
* When a council member holds a seat, they hold the seat as themselves within Student Parliament.
* Student Parliament is the most contested spaces.
* The report of the SRC is made by the Secretary General and then there is the financial report read by the chairpersons.
* There are systems of accountability through the Speaker of Parliament and any other member of the student populous that has asked for speaking rights.
* Any matters that have to deal with a specific portfolio, that specific councillor will have to answer for them as that councillor holds that seat. For example, if there is an issue with conservatism then Madam Environmental has to account for the issue.
* When it comes to general functioning of the SRC, it is the responsibility of the President and the Vice President to account for that.
* She doesn’t anticipate anything new from the meeting.
* Madam Academics asked if she was the only one who had not been added to the WhatsApp group for the Student Parliament and asked for the link for the meeting link so that she could share with the Faculty reps.
* Madam Vice President assured Madam Academics that she had been added to the WhatsApp group and said that it is not allowed to add faculty reps in the meeting. The Student Parliament Executive sent an email explaining how Student Parliament is going to work and that there is only one representative from each substructure that is allowed to join the meeting.
* Madam Secretary General said that each council member should be ready to answer questions in relation to their report, especially since the report is compiled by all councillors.
* Madam Vice President added that the email is not direct and specific about how the questions will be answered, even though there is mention of stipulated deadlines. She urged all councillors to be attentive and on standby in the meeting as questions may come.
* Madam President stated that she will share the Secretary of Parliament’s number.

**Agenda 8.1. Feenix Update**

Madam Student Benefits shared the following feedback from the meeting:

* The task team was supposed to start campaigns by the 30th of August but changes have been made to that and the campaigns will start September till November.
* The same campaign document still applies.
* Madam President asked Madam Vice President if she advised for the date to be shifted due to the SRC elections.
* Madam Vice President answered yes as Madam Student Benefits mentioned.
* Madam President said the document assisted a lot and that in substructures, people should engage. She encouraged other councillors to attend the next meeting.
* Community Engagement councillor stated that the document was comprehensive and he and Madam Media could not attend the meeting and the EFF meeting at the same time, to which he excused himself. He believed that Feenix will be important for Madam Student Benefits during handover takeover and that it should be carried over to the next term to make it more effective.
* Madam Student Benefits added that in the meeting, it was said that one of the Feenix representatives the SRC is working with will forward a link of a webinar that will occur and council will need to share it. She requested that there be more engagement on it.

**Agenda 8.2. CHERTL Translanguaging event**

Community Engagement said that:

* He and Madam Projects had a meeting with CHERTL, Ms. Sixole and Anthea from CHERTL with the event that will be on the 15th of September. He said that the ladies explained what the event is about and what kind of assistance they would need from the SRC.
* The President had previously briefed him and Madam Projects so they had an idea as to how to go about it.
* The purpose of the webinar is to promote language diversity in academia. Some councillors might have seen the Politics department write out a course outline in Xhosa.
* They requested the SRC to maximise student participation because they are trying to use the webinar as an event to try and leverage departments to revisit their language policies. If there are no students, then they have no backing or foundation.
* Madam President stated that she is excited about the event and said this event can be used for the transformation that council would like to see. She believes it would be great to add a promotion video of different languages as it speaks towards the transformation policies of the institutions. She suggested to have a promo video to promote the event as there is enough time to set up a task team for that.

**Agenda 8.3. Feedback from Meeting with the Union**

Sports and Societies councillor stated that:

* The National Union of Public Service and Allied Workers requested for an urgent meeting with the SRC, which he attended with Community Engagement councillor and the Treasurer General.
* Reason for the meeting was that, there was a protest that was based on the organisational rights that they envisaged that they deserve and do have.
* They said they were given permission to have the strike on campus however it is said to be an illegal strike now.
* As the SRC, we were requested to assist them in any way. They said that they are parents and so they do not want a violent protest, but rather a calm march.
* They are a union but they are a non-political affiliated to the government.
* Madam Environmental believes that council should support the union and the protest. She feels that it should be explained to the students as they do not understand why this is happening, so that they stand with the protest.
* Residence councillor asked what the demands of the union are.
* Sports and Societies answered that the recognition of their union and organisational rights within their union. For the past three years they were getting subsequent deductions from the other agencies of unions. They also demand that they become an independent agency/union.
* Community Engagement councillor added that the union mentioned that they require basic conditions of employment as they are being charged in unions they are not a part of. The individuals are entitled to trade union representation.
* Madam President said that as the SRC they have to ask the Union to send a document so that even if council shows solidarity, council will know exactly where to specify it to. She said that council recognises the struggles of the staff.

**Agenda 8.4. Women’s Day Webinar**

* Madam Activism stated that the event went well. There were different people who spoke from different angles.
* Madam Projects said that there could have been more speakers if they were getting paid. The other quotations from the speakers were expensive. She felt that the task team did well on the day and posters were released.
* Madam Vice President said that it was a good and informative event with a lot of profound material. She was disappointed that the students did not participate and the student body did not pledge, including the substructures. However, the people who attended the webinar benefited from it and it was a great presentation. She said it would be great to have the same event but not entirely about women again.
* Madam President concurred with Madam Vice President.
* Madam Post Graduate said the meeting showed how much the SRC has grown as a council. She said it was well planned and well executed. Speakers that were speaking on women from different backgrounds really helped for everyone to relate.

**Agenda 8.5. Feedback from Student Body meeting**

Madam Post Graduate had the following to say:

* The student body has a lot of keyboard warriors, they would rather type out posts than attend meetings where they can engage the SRC.
* She apologised for network issues and she engaged less because of that. She thought she would get another chance to answer the questions directed to her but it did not occur.
* Madam Media said that she was captured by Madam Post Graduate and disappointed that the candidates running for the SRC did not attend the event as this was going to be helpful to them and she felt that the candidates should be at the forefront of all SRC events. She said there were a few technical glitches in the meeting.
* International councillor stated that he would want to hold the current SRC accountable for not releasing information to the student body efficiently and that the elections are not getting enough hype. He encouraged council members to use their own platforms on social media to release information.

**Agenda 9.1. Women’s Day Pad drive**

Madam Oppidan stated the following:

* The Pad drive was voted on Friday afternoon by the Oppidan committee that it could begin in the middle of the month. She apologized that she did not communicate before.
* Madam Secretary General called for a point of order and said that Madam Oppidan had addressed this in the group chat and she highlighted that she will give feedback on the group chat as there is not much the SRC can do.
* Madam President said that Madam Oppidan has to make council understand what the pad drive is all about since it is happening already. She advised Madam Oppidan that she would need to be very proactive in future and there should be a report back from the Oppidan union at each council meeting every week from now on. Madam President asked for a brief context of the drive and how best the SRC could support the drive.
* Madam Vice President asked for a point of order countering Madam President’s suggestion saying that council is supposed to have received a document for the event. Madam Activism and Madam Oppidan are partnering up and having an event yet there is no document just yet. She said there is need for there to be documentation.
* Madam President said she could not let the point of order stand as she understood why it happened this way but Madam Oppidan would need to be addressed accordingly as someone who did not follow procedure.
* Madam Oppidan stated that 14th of august is when the pad drive will occur as the committee had already voted on it. The Oppidan students will have to collect the sanitary pads at the Oppidan offices. The Pad drive is for Women’s month and it was brought up by the Transformation rep. The SRC may support by donating sanitary pads and being available when the task team distributes the pads from the 14th of August.
* Madam Secretary General said that in relation to her request to donate pads, council may not be able to do that using the SRC funds as council wouldn’t be able to contribute seeing as the Residence councillor’s pad drive was approved with his portfolio funds and some money from the executive budget.
* Madam President asked if the Secretary General meant that in terms of finances to purchase the pads or sanitary pads.
* Madam Secretary General answered saying that she meant both, since this was approved on the 26th of July with the Residence councillor. She felt that the Oppidan councillor is a member of the SRC and has duties towards the SRC and council should not split that. Madam Secretary General stated that council should direct the funds to the Residence councillor’s project.
* Madam Vice President said the project is a good initiative and asked if Oppidan committee applied for the contact event to occur with regards to the COVID-19 regulations compliance. She asked how the distribution of pads would work, if council members will be taking shifts and so forth.
* Madam Treasurer General added that she agreed with the Vice President and disagreed with the Secretary General saying that the financial decision of that nature would be hers to make. She believes the Pad drive is a good initiative. She said that proper discipline towards Madam Oppidan should be followed and moved for the event to continue.
* Residence councillor expressed dissatisfaction as his proposal included a collaboration with the Oppidan committee and councillor and the Residence system itself to carry out one drive that will serve the entire student body. He said that now that one party is doing one thing and the other party is doing another, one of the parties will fall short and receive less funds.
* Madam President asked the Oppidan councillor that upon seeing that the Oppidan committee would be carrying out this event, if she raised that as the SRC representative, there was an event proposed by the SRC Residence councillor and she would like to have a collaborative event with him.
* Madam Oppidan said that she spoke to the Transformation rep about the event that is taking place at the end of August but the rep said that she could not wait until the end of the month. That is why the project was brought back to the table and voted to go forward. She said it is out of SRC’s power to put a halt to Oppidan committee events seeing that the committee does not answer to the SRC.
* Community Engagement councillor called for a point of order asking for the relevance of the statement that Madam Oppidan said that stated that the Oppidan committee can do what they want as opposed to answering the questions she was asked.
* Madam President asked Madam Oppidan to answer the questions that were asked.
* Madam Oppidan said that maybe two councillors can go to the Oppidan offices to help distribute the pads and the committee is waiting for the approval for the event as they had applied to have the contact event. She said that the SRC can distribute posters to raise awareness if there are no funds to purchase sanitary pads.
* Madam Student Benefits asked which event should be contributed to, because not every Oppidan student will contribute to an Oppidan drive and not every Residence student will contribute to a Residence drive. She had a concern about the pads in the purple room, if Madam Oppidan was hoping to receive those too as the Residence councillor had already asked for them as well.
* Madam Projects asked if Madam Oppidan will be using her portfolio funds for the pad drive and she wanted clarity on whether the event has been approved as council members stated that they would not attend an event that is not approved.
* Madam Media suggested that it would be a better idea to combine the two events from the Residence councillor and the Oppidan councillor. There will be a perception that the SRC is not being proactive enough if the events remain separated.
* Madam Oppidan asked who the approval for the event would be coming from.
* Madam President stated that the event counts as a contact event and asked if it has been approved.
* Madam Oppidan said that the Transformation rep is the one dealing with the approval and applications so she will ask her about it. She answered Madam Student Benefits saying that if it is a problem, the Oppidan committee will have to handle everything on their own and deal with the donation. Madam Oppidan said she would not have to use the SRC funds or her portfolio funds as she can use the Oppidan union funds if she communicates with the warden. She did not know about the pads in the purple room and therefore she could not answer for it.
* Sports and Societies councillor asked for an apology from the Oppidan councillor for her previous statement and corrected her saying there is a reason why there is an SRC council who chairs the Oppidan council as they are the SRC’s substructure and answer to the SRC. So, the events that the committee hosts should align with the SRC. He expressed that the absence of a document outlining the project details leaves the SRC in the dark in terms of knowing how many pads the project needs and what they hope to achieve.
* Madam President relayed that Madam Oppidan needed to apologise for the statement that she said (the Oppidan committee can do whatever it wants) and corrected her in terms of the 2016 constitution of the Oppidan Hall.
* Madam Oppidan apologised for the statement she said as it was disrespectful. She said that the Oppidan union is not a substructure of the SRC according to the constitution in response to Sports and Societies councillor.
* Madam President requested for a document with details about the event as per SRC protocol and a report before the event.
* Madam Secretary General asked if the SRC is obliged to support the event since the Oppidan union is not a substructure of the SRC.
* Madam President answered yes.
* Madam Vice President expressed dissatisfaction with the statements and asked for clarity on the event.
* Madam Oppidan said that she will share the document with the event details.

 **Agenda 9.2. Leadership Week**

Madam Vice President had the following to say:

* She spoke to Mr. Ofei and the IEB has been requesting council members to assist with campaigning.
* When she set the initial dates for Leadership week, she consulted Mr. Ofei however, he could not confirm anything as Mr Hellerman has the final say.
* Mr. Ofei thinks the Leadership week should occur after the elections as the new elects may be included into the Leadership week.
* The inauguration is on the 27th of August, so having the leadership week a week after that would be a good idea.
* The task team has received responses from 3 speakers.
* Madam President suggested that the Leadership week could be centred around after being elected, strengthening or embedding the leadership that will emerge at that time. She feels that it should stay contextually relevant and that it shouldn’t be changed too much. She suggested that the leadership week begin in the week of the 30th of August.
* Madam Vice President agreed with Madam President saying that the 1st and 2nd of September would work.
* Community Engagement councillor suggested that the event be done from the 30th, to the 31st of August and the 1st of September as it was a three-day event.
* Madam President stated that the Vice President has set up a task team for the Leadership weak and it is something to look forward to.

**Agenda 9.3. Feedback from Executive Meeting**

Madam Secretary General said:

* There was a discussion on the possibility of a protest. As a council, the SRC should think about how it will navigate the possibility of a protest.
* Council members need to encourage people to run for the SRC.
* Council received two invites, the first one was to attend an LEC meeting in Mpumalanga, which was declined because it is for a day, The DSA might not allow the council to attend and funds may not allow.
* The second invitation was for the President to attend an all-expenses workshop in Namibia for 2 weeks. There has not been a decision as to whether she will attend or not.
* The Executive contemplated on having Leadership week on the 30th and 31st of August and the 1st of September.
* Sports and Societies councillor met with Sports Admin regarding the free health suite access and that the SRC would need to have an answer for where the funds will come from to pay for the gym membership for SRC council members.
* Madam President added clarity on the Mpumalanga trip saying that there is no form of financial implication, it is regarding the COVID-19 protocol and the same goes for the Namibia trip.
* Madam Post Graduate asked that with regards to the SRC elections and other council members who want to run, is there going to be a discussion on the “dos and don’ts” in terms of elections.
* Madam President asked if Madam Post Graduate was asking if current council can campaign, to which Madam Post Graduate answered yes. Madam President stated that there isn’t really a list of “dos and don’ts” but just a conflict of interest and that she can discuss with the Post Graduate councillor and any other councillor offline.
* Madam Student Benefits made a comment with regards to who will pay for gym membership, she suggested to request that the University pay for it, instead of them adding it to the SRC’s Annual budget but to actually pay for it themselves.
* Madam Activism suggested that when the offline conversation is had, all of council get feedback as it would be beneficial to all of council.
* Madam President believed that there would need to be a lot more research done on these provisions and that the Sports and Societies councillor and Treasurer General will have to seek advice on how this would be actualised.

**2021.07.10. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

* 16 August 2021 at 18:00 on Zoom

**Time Adjourned**: 19:38